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**USSR-LEBANON: Hostage Situation**

***Moscow is knocking on all doors to obtain the release of the remaining three Soviet hostages, but the group holding them now says it will not let them go.*** [redacted]

The Soviet Chargé in Beirut met Saturday with Druze leader Junblatt and Amal chief Barri, and [redacted] the Soviets have also approached Iraq and Iran for help. [redacted]

Meanwhile, a caller who said he represented the group holding the hostages told a Western news agency yesterday that the terrorists would not release the hostages despite the cease-fire in Tripoli. He said the diplomats would not be freed until the US and the USSR agreed to end the Lebanese civil war. The caller appealed to the terrorists holding the American and French hostages not release their captives either. [redacted]

**Comment:** General Secretary Gorbachev's purposefully vague response to a question about the situation during his news conference in Paris on Friday was consistent with the Soviet line since the crisis began of avoiding public threats of retaliation. The new demands, however, will add to Moscow's frustration with the Lebanese problem. [redacted]

Despite the cease-fire in Tripoli, the terrorists' demand for the withdrawal of Syria and its surrogates has not been met. Media reports that Syrian troops are disarming the militias in Tripoli almost certainly will reinforce the kidnapers' unwillingness to release their captives. In any event, the extremists are aware that, if they were to free the Soviets, they would be open to retaliation. [redacted]

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